ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Cases from African countries and Slovenia

a two-part symposium

> **19 APRIL AND 24 MAY 2024**

> **WITH ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME**

— *Symposium Part One,*
  19 April 9.15–13.00

Access to Health Services and Educational Institutions

> **Location: Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Zavetiška 5, in P4**

9.15–9.30 Introductory speech

9.30–11.00 Access to Educational Institutions (Moderator: Sarah Lunaček)

> 9.30–10.00 Sandi Horvat (Roma Academic Club): The Importance of Education for Roma in Slovenia
>
> 10.00–10.30 Georg Klute (University of Bayreuth, Germany) : Vocational Training in Northern Niger: An Innovative Approach in Development Cooperation
>
> 10.30–11.00 Yannick Bosquet (University of Mauritius). Language Access in Education: The Case of Creole in the Republic of Mauritius

11.00–11.30 *COFFEE BREAK*

11.30– 13.00 Access to health services (Moderator: Dagmar Nared)

>11.30–12.00 Anita Tinghira (University of Dar es Salaam): The Maternal Referral System, Childbirth Experiences and Healthcare Dilemmas in Rural Tanzania

>12.00–12.30 Uršula Lipovec Čebron (University of Ljubljana): Access to Healthcare and the Role of Intercultural Mediator

>12.30–13.00 Sara Pistotnik: Universality of Healthcare in Slovenia: Dilemmas in Understanding Access

— *Accompanying programme*

Monday 15 April, 16.20–18.00 (P4): **LANGUAGE EXCHANGE WORKSHOP**

Led by Erasmus students from Tanzania, Niger and Ethiopia. They will present where their languages are spoken and offer basic phrases of their languages in small groups: Swahili, Tamashek, Hausa, Gamo, mentioning also: Amharic, Chamba.

Student teachers: Ally Idd Nchale, Nickson Sigirfidi Mkenda (University of Dar es Salaam), Adamou Achhafert, Bachir Haya Oumaru (Univeristy Abadou Moumouni, Niamey), Muhaba Kejela, Desta Mussa Muda (University of Arba Minch)

GUEST LECTURE: 15 April, 13.00–14.30 in 1A-Rimska: **YANNICK BOSQUET: Multilingualism in Mauritius**

GUEST LECTURE: 16 April, 11.20–12.55 in P3: **ANITA TINGHIRA: Global Health in the Global South: Dynamic in the Provision and Uptake of Maternal Health Services in Rural Tanzania**

GUEST LECTURE 23 April, 11.20–12.55 in P3.: **GEORG KLUTE: Anthropology of Human-Environment Relationships**

— *Abstracts*

The Importance of Education for Roma in Slovenia

Sandi Horvat (Roma Academic Club)

Roma are not recognized as a minority in Slovenia, so they do not enjoy the same rights as other minorities. In most cases, we can talk about positive developments, but as an ethnic community, they still face prejudice and stereotypes. Slovenia currently allocates almost a third of all funds each year to Roma education programs. Despite this the access of Roma children to formal education in schools is not the same as for majority population. On the basis of my experiences, I will consider the shortcomings of the current situation and positive changes.

Vocational Training in Northern Niger: An Innovative Approach in Development Cooperation

Georg Klute (University of Bayreuth)

An innovative approach of NGOs Salver Africa and TAMAT will be presented.

1.Significantly lower proportion of "self-financing" of projects due to the smaller size of our organizations compared to state agencies, therefore less complex administrative processes.

2. Applying systematic Gouldner's vision on "reciprocity as a social norm" which results in the fact that the costs of control are minimized, thanks to advances in trust.

3. Allowing a certain degree of informality in administrative processes and decision-making, rendering these processes and decisions more efficient.

4. Inviting actively all those involved, partner NGOs, master craftsmen, trainees, farmers, nurses, midwives, drivers, etc., to bring in own ideas for improvement, which requires intellectual openness and willingness to understand projects as processes. In this way, projects benefit from local knowledge, as well as from the creativity and innovative spirit of all those involved.

5. Creating an "esprit de corps", reinforced by the delegation of responsibilities, which increases the intrinsic motivation of all.

6. Learning from previous projects or projects in similar fields of activity by reading project reports in order to avoid errors made formerly and thus to refute Norris' analysis "on the inability of German development aid to learn from its own mistakes"

7. Doing ethnographic interviews with people involved in the projects. The aim of the ethnographic approach (Spradley) is to identify problems and fallacies during the duration of the projects. This approach takes into account the fact that projects are processes and contrasts the approach consisting in merely executing pre-formulated goals.

8. Generally build a positive project culture and thus create the "Pygmalion effect". This is done through daily exchanges between those responsible for the project and all the stakeholders involved, as well as through the institutionalization of meetings at horizontal levels (trainees among themselves, master craftsmen among themselves, horticulturists among themselves, etc.).

Language Access in Education: The case of Creole in the Republic of Mauritius

Yannick Bosquet (University of Mauritius)

The Republic of Mauritius, which comprises of the two main islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, is situated in the South-West Indian Ocean and forms part of the African continent. The multilingual situation of the Republic is characterized by diaglossia, inherited from the former colonial powers, and in which English, the official language, is actually spoken by less than 1% of the population, and yet is the main language in the education sector. Creole, the language spoken by 90 % of the population has only been recently standardized and offered as an optional subject in the school curriculum. In the context of this complex situation, the objective of this paper is to describe the evolution of access to Creole language in the Mauritian education sector in recent years and more specifically the period from 2004 to 2024 which has been marked by an acceleration of the institutional use of Creole. We will consider both the cases of Mauritius and Mauritian Creole, as well as Rodrigues and Rodriguan Creole, within the Republic. Finally, we will discuss the challenges that await the Republic, in terms of language access in the education sector.

The Maternal Referral System, Childbirth Experiences and Healthcare Providers' Dilemmas in Lalta Ward, Tanzania

Anitha Tingira (University of Dar es Salaam)

Following persistently high maternal mortality rate in Global South countries, in 1994, the WHO identified the maternal referral system as an important intervention for the reduction of maternal deaths in these countries which are characterized by a shortage or resources and health care providers, low pay and difficult working environments. Tanzania initiated a strict program to implement the maternal referral system in 2007 but maternal mortality rate is still high at 104/100,000 livebirths. Drawing on ten months of ethnographic research rural Tanzania, I discuss the implementation of the maternal referral system and its impact on women and healthcare providers who work in resource-poor and challenging environments. I argue that, although the maternal referral system intends to help women with high-risk pregnancies to timely access emergence obstetric care and prevent maternal deaths, its implementation subjects some women to suffering and the risk of death.

I further contend that, ethical guidelines on the implementation of the maternal referral system pose challenges to healthcare providers' moral stances, working and social relationships. I describe the ways in which healthcare providers (re)interpret intervention and guidelines in order to provide maternal healthcare that is possible in that context. This paper underscores the ways in which the practices of health care providers are shaped by and are often in response to local women's needs. The resulting reproductive knowledge are not just a top-down imposition but are constituted through ongoing practice and changing contexts.

Access to healthcare and the role of intercultural mediator

Uršula Lipovec Čebron (University of Ljubljana)

Based on qualitative research in different parts of Slovenia, the presentation analyses some structural obstacles in the access to social and health services for people without Slovene citizenship. Moreover, it focuses on the question how language and cultural barriers affect health care and in what way health professionals and patients are trying to overcome these barriers. And finally, it explores the importance of intercultural mediation in healthcare as well as the role of intercultural mediators in the triadic situation (healthcare worker, patient, intercultural mediator), while pointing to some difficulties regarding the implementation of this new profession in Slovenia.

Universality of Healthcare in Slovenia: Dilemmas in Understanding Access

Sara Pistotnik (University of Ljubljana)

A concept of universal health coverage refers to strivings that all persons are guaranteed an access to quality healthcare, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care across the life course. Universal health coverage was defined as one of the Sustainable Development Goals by United Nations that should be reached by 2030, but the fulfilment of this task is unfortunately still far away. Even more, global crises of last decades, especially financial crises in 2008 and Covid-19 pandemics, had a major impact on access to social welfare in various EU states, including health care coverage. Slovenia is not an exception. Once regarded a state, in which healthcare is accessible to large parts of the population, is in past years faced with rapid deterioration of timely and predictable health care service. This is a consequence of various interrelated processes in relation to an organization of healthcare insurance as well as other circumstances defining access to health care. This situation presents a good opportunity to pose a question, what does universality in health care actually refers to.

Symposium Part Two:
24 May 9–13h

Insecurity and Remoteness

> **Location: Faculty of Arts, Aškerčeva 2**

> **Details to be announced**

Security crisis in Sahel:
Moussa Zangaou (University of Niamey, IRSH): Questions de securité au Sahel: contexts sociaux/**Questions of Security in Sahel: Social Contexts**

Oumarou Hamani (University of Niamey, LASDEL): L'accès des populations déplacées aux services sociaux de base à Ouest du Niger/**Access to Basic Social Services of Displaced Populations in the West of Niger**

Abdoulkader Afane (University of Niamey): **Effects of the Security Crisis on Transhumance and Coping Strategies of kel Gress Herders in the Tajaé Nomadic Group**

Protected Areas and Remoteness:
Participating: Bayisa Feye Bedane (University of Arba Minch)
and researchers from the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Jaka Repič, Sandi Abram, Blaž Bajič, Ana Svetel in Veronika Zavratnik

— *Accompanying programme, part two*

GUEST LECTURES 27 and 28 May
Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology

Moussa Zangaou
L'esclavage au Sahel, le cas du Niger Slavery in Sahel, the Case of Niger

Hamani Oumarou
anthropologue et son terrain en context de insecurité/ Anthropologist and His/Her Fieldwork in the Context of Insecurity

Abdoulkader Afane
The Pastoral Crisis in Niger: What future for Pastoral Communities

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We are grateful to all who supported the visits of guest teachers and events:

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